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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung.

CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF STATE CONTROL  
TO EXERCISE CLOSE ECONOMIC SUPERVISION

The new Czechoslovak Ministry of State Control supersedes the central accounting offices which have supervised public offices heretofore. The function of the new ministry is strict supervision of the administration of state, cooperative, and other organizations. The ministry will scrutinize the expenditure of funds in state, cooperative, and other enterprises and will supervise the work of the organizations and offices. It will enforce laws and governmental decisions concerning economic and financial matters, and will prepare measures to deal with shortages and to punish the culprits.

The agencies of the Ministry of State Control are empowered to demand records of all kinds. Persons ordered by the supervisory agencies to make reports or to give specific data may not excuse themselves on grounds of protecting governmental, economic, or official secrets.

The new ministry began its activities on 8 September 1951, the day the decree establishing it was announced. Karol Bacilek, a proved veteran Slovak Communist, was assigned to head the new ministry. The ministry was assigned the task of attacking the remnants of the old capitalist system, poor administration, misappropriation of public property, and sabotage of the planned economy.

The purpose of state control is to remove all those who maliciously obstruct the development of socialism. The ministry will not only concern itself with supervision, but will also scrutinize the operations of the economic agencies. A special department will collect the grievances of the party, trade-union, and other large-scale organizations, as well as those of individual workers. Those units from which a large number of grievances emanate will be required to explain them. In serious cases the agencies will make on-the-spot investigations, a procedure which is already in operation. For example, one worker complained about the lack of order in his plant; the machines were improperly installed, and the work was poorly organized. The grievance stated that the plant managers were constantly drunk and did not concern themselves sufficiently with factory affairs. The workers were dissatisfied and the plant was not fulfilling its quota.

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The supervision extends to work organization, setting up machin depots, and checking inventories and finances. Depending on the results, a more detailed investigation of the entire plant administration might follow, or, if the matter concerned individual grievances, other appropriate steps would be taken. The supervising agencies have been directed to confine themselves to the essential factors, and to consult with the workers, the party functionaries, and the factory directors on all controversial matters.

The personnel of the new ministry consists of workers who are being trained as political and technical specialists.

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